

Slavery, Servitude and Class Conflict in Chesapeake Society

Bailey: Chapter 4 (focus on Bacon's rebellion)

Supplement: Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox" & Conflict and Consensus: *Wealth, Authority, & Power*

Write out answer to homework question 5 and 6

Focus Questions

What factors led to the development of slavery in the American colonies?

How did slavery and freedom coexist in the colonial Chesapeake?

Identifications:

slave, slave trade, freedman, planter, William Berkeley, Nathaniel Bacon, Bacon's Rebellion,

Homework Questions:

1. What led to the introduction of slavery in colonial Virginia in 1619?
2. What was the status of blacks in early 17th century Virginia? What does the example of Anthony Johnson indicate about the status of blacks, and about the foundations of racial slavery in colonial America?
3. What is a paradox? What is the central paradox with which Edmund Morgan (author of the supplement) wrestles?
4. Explain how overpopulation in seventeenth century England contributes to the eventual rise of slavery in America.
5. What were the complaints of Bacon and his followers? In what sense might these complaints be seen as class-based? How might the rebellion be viewed as a class conflict?

6. How does Morgan answer the following questions? Why did racial slavery begin to replace indentured servitude as the main source of plantation labor? Why and in what ways does the legal status of black people in the South change toward the end of the late seventeenth century?

7. How might you argue, based on Morgan's analysis, that radical democracy in the seventeenth century depended upon slavery?

8. Was slavery caused by racism? If not, than what did cause slavery, and how do you explain the present reality of racism?